

THE STRAIN IN CHINA NOT SO GREAT AS IT WAS

(Continued from Page 1.)

Prince Ching will succeed in protecting the foreigners. They scouted the stories of the massacre of the people in the Legations and the poisoning of the Emperor and his family. Expressing the opinion that Prince Ching and the loyalists would be best assisted by the prompt dispatch of international reinforcements, they would be the formation of a strong government.

TIEN-TSIN AGAIN BOMBARDED.

NEW YORK, July 18.—A dispatch to the Herald from Che Foo, dated Sunday, July 16, says that the bombardment of the foreign quarter last Tuesday and Wednesday was the most severe since the outbreak of the rebellion. The bombardment was described as the worst yet experienced, but there were no civilian casualties, though many Chinese were killed. A force of British and Russians tried to silence the Chinese guns, but failed without effecting their object.

The British and Russian ships shelled the Chinese guns on Thursday, but the artillery did not recommence on Friday. Two hundred refugees, mostly women and children, left Thursday and Friday. They were loaded by launches, and reached Taku safely. Small bodies of Russian and Japanese were met at short intervals all the way down. To their presence was due the pacific demeanor of the Chinese. Several burning villages were reported to have been set on fire by Russians, who occupy a large part of the Tien-Tsin and Taku, where they have a torpedo boat. Several hundred Russians are occupying the railway and station at Tong Ku. Japanese troops landed at Taku. The Yorktown took twenty-five American refugees on board. The Germans went aboard a German warship, while the British transferred to the Hainchi and the Hai Loong. The former has reached Che Foo with fifty refugees on the way to Shanghai. The latter, with 150, is proceeding to Nagasaki.

The British cruiser Albatross called at Che Foo this morning from Wei Hai Wei. The British cruiser Albatross, which is weak in artillery. The immediate object of the allies is to take the native city and stop the bombardment and sniping.

NEWS FROM CHINESE SOURCES.

CHICAGO, July 18.—Chicago Chinese are beginning to receive by letters and parcels the first news from home of the trouble now existing in the northern province of their native land.

One of the most intelligent Celestials in Chicago is in receipt of a letter from his brother, who is an officer in the Chinese navy. Although the letter was written several weeks ago at the first outbreak of trouble, much that was written as to the future of China, the letter has been transcribed. In regard to the contents of the letter, he said: "That the bloodiest war known in its history is now brewing in China. I have no doubt. The man who is now in charge of the military affairs in the region where the Boxers abound is well versed in the arts of modern warfare. After this war ends I would not be surprised if 1,000,000 Chinese were killed. How many foreigners will meet death I cannot conjecture, but the number will be great. And since the Chinese have learned a lesson from Japan they have been training themselves in the arts of warfare. They have as fine guns as any Government and well as men behind them."

My further writes me that the great majority of Chinese in the southern provinces are against the ruling powers and the Boxers. There is a large class of men called pensioners, who will be with the Government, and as they are well-to-do soldiers they will do terrible execution.

"I would like to see the trouble settled without war, but if it must come, it will be a good thing for the future of China. The ignorant Chinese is of the belief that the Boxers are sent there to rob him of his land, and consequently this war will be fought for the home. The Chinese has seen where Russia, France and Germany have taken parts of their country and the taxes greatly increased under European rule. He is going to fight for his home and his life, and he will not fight with arms of swords, as a great many people suppose. The Chinese is slow to anger, but when once aroused nothing can stop him."

"China needs a change, a good religion to sweep away all those old superstitions. I believe the day is not far distant when the southern part of China, at least, will be Christianized."

AN UNPARALLELED SITUATION.

HONOLULU, June 28.—(Correspondence.)—Nothing is talked of here but the situation in China, and the interest in the fate of the foreigners in Peking and Tien-Tsin is hourly growing more intense. The situation is unparalleled. Never in history has it happened that the representatives of all the great Powers have been gathered in the capital of the enemy and threatened with assassination. They were sent there in the summer of 1900, when the last tidings were received from them, but the momentary of the 17th must have immeasurably increased their peril. It is probable that the whole foreign community there, numbering somewhere between four and five hundred, are gathered in the British Legation grounds, which is a large enclosure surrounded by high walls, capable of being defended successfully against everything except artillery.

The fear of "retribution" on the part of the South African marines, from the latest accounts of the bombardment and capture of the Taku forts, some place that the offensive was assumed by the Chinese. The early hour, when the first shot was fired, would seem to indicate this. The courage of the British in thus defying the rest of the world is universally commented upon as of an extraordinary contrast to her pusillanimity of late years. Whether, however, there is any longer a government there, or whether all things are now in the hands of the reckless insurgents is a matter of conjecture. The marvellously easy manner in which the Chinese have been able to capture the forts, and the fact that all the larger vessels of the immense foreign fleet were obliged to remain at a distance and out of the fight, the reduction being accomplished entirely by the gunboats, makes the achievement all the more remarkable. The attack by the land forces consisting of a few hundred Japanese and Russian marines, and their easy victory, also shows the disorganized character of the defense. At last reports every available vessel from the combined fleet was being hurried up the river to Tien-Tsin, and tidings from them are being received with the intensest interest.

Among the late reports is one that the Powers have asked Japan to despatch a fleet of 20,000 men to the scene at once. A large transport fleet is assembling at the port of Hiroshima on the inland sea, and the troops are being hurried there, already upon the spot embarking amid immense enthusiasm, the country resembling those attending the departure of the forces in the late Japanese war. It is now generally recognized by press and people that this, by reason of its geographical position, has the whip-hand in this extraordinary case and that an opportunity is now afforded it to put the entire world under a new and lasting obligation. Japan has an army of half a million trained and equipped men, as a military machine rivaling in efficiency the army of Germany. Of late Russia has been looking as a formidable rival in the Orient, and Russian bugbear has proved heretofore a potentially repressive influence alike on the Government, the press and the people generally. All that has now vanished from the consciousness of this world and that she is virtually the mistress of the situation. It is assumed that Russia must inevitably take a back seat, and furthermore that whatever settlement is made in the new appointment, the great Northern Power will be forced to unite with the rest in according such justice to Japan as will wipe out the deadly affront given in wrenching from her the fruits of her victories. Historically, it will be the finest instance of poetic justice, while it will also accomplish immense good by warding off perhaps permanently the threatened conflict between the two Powers, the fear of which has so disturbed the peace of the Orient.

Probably the Chinese crisis will undoubtedly have a controlling influence upon the situation here. Just as in China, according to the latest reports, Li Hung Chang has been summoned to Peking, so Japan, it is recognized, must call to the aid of its strongest man, and Marquis Ito will undoubtedly assume command. His famous conductor, Count Inouye, will also be needed, as in the final result this Empire will need all the diplomatic skill it can command to cope with the West, and in this the Count is an acknowledged chief.

Generally, Japan must suffer heavily through the complete rupture of her trade and commerce with China. Her finances are at a low ebb, also, something which has been prevailing for a few months past. The stock market of late has been a decided slump and business is almost at a standstill. Much hope, however, that a general clearing of the air will speedily follow the present storm in the Orient, and that as a result of the gathering of the world Powers the life is to dawn upon the entire East.

WASHINGTON, July 18.—The State Department has finally concluded to make the circular of instruction which was recently delivered to the Powers as defining the position of the United States respecting the Chinese troubles. It is understood that the circular of instruction was drawn up on the 25th of June and transmitted to the President for his approval. The President has approved the circular and it was issued on the 18th of July. It embodies the views to which this Government has adhered from the very beginning of the present troubles, and which the department has one by one taken into favorable consideration. The announcement of the President at the start that we did not consider ourselves at war with the Chinese nation and that all our efforts should be directed toward localizing the disturbances in the provinces of China and keeping them from spreading throughout the Empire by insisting on the side of peace the power of the Vice-Roy and Central and Southern China, has not apparently been adopted by all the Powers. It is too soon to prophesy the ultimate results, but thus far the Chinese are all favorable. It will be seen that no answer from the different Powers was required or expected to the circular of July 3, but it is understood it is everywhere favorably received and that no objections have been made in any quarter. It is not true that there has been any formation of groups of Powers of any sort. It may be positively asserted, for instance, that the co-operation of France and the United States has been most constant.

The circular which was sent to our foreign representatives is as follows: DEPARTMENT OF STATE, WASHINGTON, D. C., JULY 3, 1899. In this critical posture of affairs in China it is deemed appropriate to define the position of the United States as far as present circumstances permit this to be done. We adhere to the policy adopted by us in 1857 of peace with the Chinese, of freedom of lawful commerce, and of protection of lives and property of the law of nations. If wrong be done to our citizens, we propose to hold the authors thereof to the strictest account. We regard the condition at present existing in China as one of virtual anarchy, whereby power and responsibility is practically placed upon the local provincial authorities. So long as they are not in overt rebellion and use their power to protect foreign life and property, we will recognize them as representing the Chinese people, with whom we seek to remain in friendly relations. The purpose of the President is, as it has been heretofore, to bring and secure the American people, first in opening up communication with the Chinese, secondly, to afford all possible protection everywhere in the American life and property, thirdly, in guarding and protecting all legitimate American interests, and fourthly, in aiding to prevent a spread of the disturbances to the other provinces of the Empire, and a recurrence of such disasters. The policy of the Government of the United States is to seek a solution which will protect permanent safety and peace to China, preserve territorial and international law, and safeguard for the world the principle of equal and impartial trade with all parts of the Chinese Empire.

AMERICAN REINFORCEMENTS.

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The issue today of the formal orders for the dispatch of the East of more than 4,000 troops from the Army posts in the United States is a manifestation of the energy with which the Government is now about to act in the Chinese matter. True, these troops are nominally destined for the Philippines, but the volunteers now there, but it is admitted that they are being sent by a route that will easily admit of defection to Taku or some other point on the coast.

WASHINGTON, July 16.—General MacArthur called the War Department that the 10th Infantry and the Fifth Artillery will leave on Friday for Taku. The troops are being sent to replace these.

JAPANESE TROOPS MOVING.

LONDON, July 17.—The Japanese Minister, Kato Takki, received a dispatch from

Tokio this evening giving his Government's reply to Great Britain's question as to whether, with the consent of the other Powers, Japan is willing to send large reinforcements to China. Japan replied that she was prepared to carry out the suggestion and that one division would be dispatched immediately.

BERLIN, July 17.—A semi-official note says: "In replying to Japan's request for notice of the Powers' attitude toward China, Germany has replied she regarded the maintenance of harmony among the Powers of prime importance and would, accordingly, assent to any measures not objected to in other quarters."

WASHINGTON, July 17.—The important dispatch to the State Department from Consul General Goodnow this morning has revived hope in a measure that the Legations, or at least some of them, are still alive in Peking, having survived at least two weeks longer than was supposed to be possible. They were alive only five days ago. The Ministers and staffs and guards are still holding out. In fact, if the only thing they have to face is starvation, as Consul Goodnow now states, the officials believe there is substantial ground for hope that the horrible stories of the last few days from Shanghai of nameless crimes and massacres committed upon the Legations are at least premature.

One certain effect of Consul General Goodnow's dispatch will be to cause the officials here, and without doubt the European Governments, to redouble their exertions to push forward a force to Peking. The main hope for speedy action is still in Japan. According to the Japanese Legation here, which has late advices from Tokyo, 2,000 Japanese soldiers are now on Chinese soil. If this report is true, the Japanese Government has accomplished more than was expected, and the officials see no reason why the further advance on Peking should not begin immediately. It is said that Japan is not expected to make this campaign single-handed. The foreign forces at Taku and Tien-Tsin will co-operate to the utmost with the Japanese army corps in the movement on Peking. What form that co-operation shall take is not known. Such details will be left to the commanders in the field.

It is said that Japan is to be compensated for the work she is going to undertake in the common cause. Her military preparations are very extensive, and the coming campaign is certain to involve heavy cost. It would be unjust to expect Japan to meet this herself. She has no missionaries in China, and consequently is perhaps less interested selfishly in China than any of the Powers in the terrible happenings in Shantung and Peking. If the Powers have agreed upon the form Japanese indemnity is to assume, the facts cannot be elicited here, but it will probably be a money indemnity which China will have to pay.

HAS THERE BEEN A MASSACRE?

LONDON, July 17.—"The massacre of the foreign Ministers, the women and children and the guards at Peking after eighteen days of hopeless resistance is confirmed," says a News Agency dispatch from Shanghai, dated July 6th, and received in London today.

"When the ammunition and food were exhausted," continues the dispatch, "the Chinese flung closed in upon the Legations and butchered all those who remained alive. Afterward they set fire to the Legation buildings, in which the remains of the victims were consumed in one horrible holocaust." The dispatch does not state the source from which the news of this "confirmation" is received, but it is thought that this is indicated by another Shanghai dispatch, which states that the Taotai, or officer in charge of several departments at Shanghai and vicinity, now admits that no Legations exist in Peking. They are said to have been exterminated, and it is admitted that no foreigners have been left alive.

Reports of the atrocities committed by Prince Tuan upon the Chinese are appalling. He had 4,000 leading Chinese butchered, it is said, for merely daring to petition him to control the orgy of blood and restrain his followers. The dispatch concludes with the announcement that ex-Viceroy Chi Li Wang Wen Chao has been killed by the Boxers.

A dispatch from Taku says that the last message from Edwin H. Conger, the United States Minister at Peking, brought there by runners, reads as follows: "We are besieged. The provisions are becoming exhausted and the situation is desperate. The relief force should advance and give us notice by signal."

Runners also confirm the report of the burning of the native city of Peking.

EX-PREMIER CRISPI'S VIEWS.

NEW YORK, July 17.—A World special from Rome says: Ex-Premier Crispi said today: "I am convinced the dismemberment of China is imminent. The integrity of China is impossible after this revolt. Once let the fabric of the Chinese Government be touched and chaos will inevitably ensue. I strongly advise that a powerful expedition be sent, thus enabling Italy to share in the spoils."

Marquis Visconti Venosta, Minister of Foreign Affairs, was also interviewed. He said: "Italy's policy is to support the cause of civilization. But we want no territory. Germany encourages Italy to send troops to enhance the prestige of the triple alliance, but Italy's aim should be to assist the Powers against the disintegration of China."

A SHANTUNG PROCLAMATION.

CHEFOO, July 18.—When the allies bombarded the native city of Tien-Tsin Captain Ota of the Japanese artillery and another Japanese officer were killed. The American Consul here showed today a proclamation posted six miles from Chefoo and distributed in the native city. It says:

"The holy god of war arouses the Buddhist world on account of the depraved sects of Protestant and Catholic Christians who insultingly overpower the Ching dynasty. Millions of spiritual soldiers will destroy the depraved sects without casualties caused by earthly armies. All who are ready to distribute copies of this placard quickly secure his family from calamity. Non-distribution brings calamity."

Foreigners are accused of poisoning wells. Native officials and representative merchants warn the people to disregard the Boxer proclamations.

EMPEROR TO PRESIDENT.

CANTON, Ohio, July 6.—The following cablegram was received by President McKinley Friday:

"RENDEZBURG, July 6.—The President of the United States, William McKinley: For Your Excellency's warm words of condolence in the murder of my representatives in Peking I express my most sincere thanks. I recognize therein the common impulse of the interests which bind the civilized nations together."

MAY HAVE BEEN OVERWHELMED.

LONDON, July 17, 2:30 a. m.—The Chefoo correspondent of the Express, telegraphing on Thursday, says there is no longer any doubt that disaster has overtaken the Russian force of 3,000 that left Tien-Tsin for Peking on June 11th. The Russians had a full field gun complement and carried their own transports. As nothing has been heard from them for twenty-four days, it is assumed that they have been overwhelmed. Trustworthy news is received to the effect that all the country to the northeast of Peking is covered with the corpses of men and horses of the western garrisons. Fighting of a desperate character took place in the immediate neighborhood of Tien-Tsin on June 30th.

Taku dispatches say an attack in great force is expected at any moment. The Chinese commanders are awaiting the arrival of more guns and reinforcements before making an effort to retake the city.

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THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA

LONDON, July 1.—General Botha is showing increased activity. His patrols cover wide stretches of country, approach near the British outposts and engage in skirmishes while larger bodies threaten to attack, declining to allow themselves to be caught by the return blows which the British promptly seek to deliver. Attacks of this sort were made Friday last at Pinaarsport on General Pole-Carew and at The Springs. Generals Botha and Dewet are seemingly operating in combination. Botha is reported to have divided his forces into two parts, one moving west and the other to the south, to try to effect a junction with Dewet.

Boer circulars are out, exaggerating the Chinese troubles and urging the burghers to rejoin the army.

Lord Roberts and several co-operating columns are still out within striking distance of Dewet.

Dr. Conan Doyle, in an interview with the Daily Telegraph's Pretoria correspondent, says the hospital arrangements have been severely tried, but that no more could have been done.

Lord Roberts, in the course of an interview, said he thought that the charges brought against the Governments by William A. Burdette-Countess, Conservative member of Parliament for Westminster, that inadequate provision had been made for the sick and wounded, were probably based upon one hospital and a hasty generalization thereon.

The Times' Pretoria correspondent telegraphs that General Colville has been ordered home.

LONDON, July 9.—Lord Roberts telegraphs to the War Office from Pretoria as follows: "The officer commanding at Heilbron reports that State Secretary Hildner, State Attorney Dickson and Members of the Council Van Tader and Kuppervergen came in yesterday and surrendered."

LONDON, July 9.—Late news from South Africa reports that the Boers have effectively attacked General Buller's escort between Standerton and Heidelberg on Saturday, as he was returning from a visit to Lord Roberts.

SENEKAL, Orange River Colony, July 9, (Monday).—An extended reconnaissance today resulted in the discovery that the Boers had evacuated all their positions around Senekal. Numbers appear to have gone towards Pilsburg and the remainder in the direction of Bethlehem. The British commander expresses the opinion that the retirement of the Boers foreshadows a speedy end of the war in this section of the country.

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